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## How bingo is played

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A SPECIAL REPORT

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A typical large bingo game in Hampton Roads is played in a rental hall and attracts about 250 to 300 players.

A session lasts between three and four hours and can generate between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in gross receipts. A \$40,000 game, played once a week, produces about \$2 million in annual receipts. Statewide, bingo generates about \$350 million a year, compared with about \$1.2 billion for the state lottery.

Traditional bingo games are played on paper cards costing \$1 for a single card to about \$30 for a large pack. No admission is charged. Patrons can play more than two dozen games per session, marking squares as numbers are read by a "caller" who picks numbered balls at random, reads the numbers aloud and flashes them on video monitors.

The object of each game is to create a winning pattern using a marker called a "dauber." The patterns may be five numbered squares in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Some games call for the winner to cover all 25 squares on a card.

Several types of jackpot games pay amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000.

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